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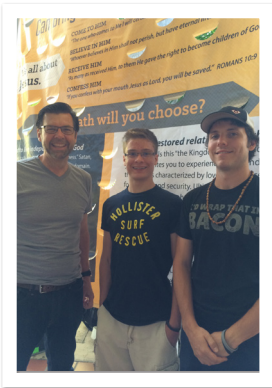
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VOLUME 6 | ISSUE 3 | SUMMER 2014
www.gccweb.org

CHANGING LIVES



JUST ANOTHER "SHORT" TRIP

By Duncan Ferguson

"I think this is completely ridiculous," is nothing short of a commonplace response while trying to share the gospel on today's college campus. There is an air of mockery and resentment as the Word of God echoes throughout the free-speech zones of many prevalent campuses found in America.

Yet despite the fact that numerous students reject the gospel, there are those seeking. Most don't know what

they are seeking, but they know they're lost. They built their foundations on that which will not last, and those foundations are crumbling.

I have been traveling with campus evangelist Tom Short for two school semesters. The longer I am traveling with Mr. Short, the more I see the need of a revival in this nation. The college campuses of America are perhaps the darkest places in this country and Mr. Short has been bringing the light of Christ into them for over thirty years.

When I first started this adventure last autumn, I had hardly enough evangelistic experience to be considered an amateur. Just a couple weeks in I faced such an onslaught of questions that my faith was shaking straight down to the foundations. The students put different questions and doubts into my mind. I didn't know how to respond to any of them.

Yet the truth prevailed. In 1 Peter 3:15, we are told to be ready to reason and defend our faith. Through conversations with Mr. Short and my own personal inquiries, I have found answers to those questions. Now I hope to share my discoveries with those who have a shaky or even broken foundation. The truth of Christ can repair or even replace their foundations entirely.

"For no one can lay a foundation other than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ" 1 Corinthians 3:11.



PLAYING WITH PRIORITIES

By Matt Gordon

As a parent I take great joy in my children pursuing God's will when making key decisions in

their lives. Most of my kids have a great passion for sports and this is where testing often comes.

My daughter Jill played on her high school's freshman volleyball team. The following summer our family made plans to lead a summer-long project in Tampa, Florida for the college students in our church. Jill talked through our plans with her coach who was quick to point out that any student who did not stay in town for her camp had little to no chance of making a team in the fall. Jill decided to go with our family and let her coach know she would work on an alternate volleyball training regimen. That fall Jill tried out and made the JV team.

My daughter Kelly played on the high school's varsity volleyball team her sophomore year under a different coach. Many teammates were consumed with the sport, and there were factors about this atmosphere that caused Kelly to feel out of place and defeated. When the summer came the coach told Kelly that she would have to play summer club ball to be successful. Though she loved volleyball, Kelly decided to go with our family on a summer project to St. Petersburg, Florida, convinced God was directing her focus elsewhere. As a result she has had more time for outreach at school, starting disciple groups and being more involved with family and church.

When I think of these stories it reminds me of the verse 3 John 4, "I have no greater joy than this, to hear of my children walking in the truth."

MISSION USA

OFFERING MERCY

By Jeff Groen

Jeff Groen pastors at Evergreen Church in Bloomington, MN.

When Jesus was asked, “Who is my neighbor?” he shared the Good Samaritan story. This story often applies to immigrants in our communities: we can ignore, shun, or help. The needy individual in Jesus’ story received all three types of treatment, and Jesus asked, “Now which of these three would you say was a neighbor to the man who was in need?” The answer was, of course the one who showed him mercy (Luke 10:27-37).

Immigrants live on the fringes of society—relatively poor and unable to advocate for themselves. Simple things for me are incredibly difficult for an immigrant. Whether filling out a I-130 change-of-

status form in English (a new language for them) or the challenging citizenship test, I can show them God’s mercy by helping.

This is one reason I took a 40-hour Immigration Law class enabling me to apply for accreditation with the Board of Immigration Affairs. My hope is to become a paralegal. Evergreen hopes to serve immigrants by developing an Immigration Clinic, offering low-cost legal services.

Immigration reform is one of the toughest policy issues our country faces. I went to Congress last November, with 600 business leaders, law enforcement officials, and pastors, to advocate for solutions honoring the rule of law (Romans 13) and welcoming the stranger (Matthew 25). I went to express the need to make changes to the law while considering mercy, compassion, and the dignity of all people, including immigrants.



Jeff and Carl Nelson, the president of Transform MN (a network of Evangelical Churches in MN), visiting Congress.

God directs the places people live and their circumstances – for one purpose: that people reach out and find Him (Acts 17). Immigrants present amazing opportunities for sharing the gospel and providing practical help. The Great Commission is great because it is all-inclusive! It is time to reach out with mercy!

LOAVES AND FISHES

By Steve Nelson

The Rio Church meets in two locations in El Paso, Texas.

In 2007, inspired by Jesus’ Great Commission, the Summitview churches in Ft. Collins and Greeley, Colorado teamed up to send a group of thirty adults to El Paso, Texas.

We were not a group of amazing and dynamic church planting people. We were simply a bunch of people who wanted to follow God’s leading, and we offered whatever talents and resources we had as loaves and fishes. We spent a lot of

energy just doing normal church life. We also tried to aggressively reach out, often with the help of visiting mission teams. It was a lot of work and prayer, and for many years there was not much visible fruit to show for it. Yet all along, we were encouraged by seeing God at work in individual lives and situations. There was always a salvation, a changed life, or an answered prayer that helped us remember that God had not forgotten us.

We kept sowing seeds, but were starting to wonder if any of them were going to sprout. Then, one day a military family came to church. Not long after that, another came, and another after them. Within a matter of months we realized that God was moving and we started



thinking about starting a second ministry near Fort Bliss on the other side of the mountain that divides El Paso. In March of 2013, we kicked off our new church and are now ministering there to a growing group of young soldiers and families. Both churches are now healthy and growing!

It has been such a thrill for our team to follow Christ to El Paso, to wait upon His timing and blessing, and then to finally see Him multiply our loaves and fishes into the lives of so many other people.

INTERNATIONAL

MULTIPLYING MULTIPLIERS

By Nelson Guerra

The 2013 GCLA Leadership Conference had T4T's Ying Kai as a special guest. During the training both Nelson Guerra, GCLA's Director, and Mr. Kai cast afresh God's vision to reach the nations, by training disciples who would in turn also become trainers.

In the course of 12 years in China, Ying Kai trained believers to train others, to the point that more than 1.7 million were baptized and more than 150,000 new churches were planted. Can something similar happen in our city, church, culture? Only God knows. One thing we do know: if Biblical principles were used in that process, we can and should learn something from it.

The training focused first of all in becoming closely knit with God, to be intentional in reaching as many as possible with the gospel and to train as many as possible with a vision of seeing 3 or 4 generations of disciples.

Being fully aware that the T4T concept is something that worked in China in a given moment, the GCLA leadership worked at adapting the process to the realities of our culture and our historical approach to ministry. As a result, and based on our previous discipleship system The Spiral, we now have what we've called Multiply Multipliers, MM.

The GCLA leadership continues to interact on how to implement MM. There was a follow-up pastor's retreat this past February to discuss its application in the local churches.



Ying Kai at the 2013 GCLA Leadership Conference

GCLA has created a website named Multiplica Multiplicadores (multiplica.igcla.com) that explains the process and offers free resources, in both Spanish and English, to anyone interested in multiplying disciples as a life style.

As we seek to reach this needy world with the gospel, we embrace Paul's words: "So neither he who plants nor he who waters is anything, but only God who gives the growth" 1 Corinthians 4:7.

SENDING MISSIONARIES TO ROMANIA

By Bill Young

The Rock is a church that is committed to share the Gospel not only in Utah, but around the world.

The vision statement of The Rock Church is to share Jesus "One life at a time, one world in our life time." Incredibly, God has opened some doors for us to minister in Romania in ways that can only be described as miraculous!

In 2012 I was part of an exploratory trip traveling throughout Romania, seeking God's will on the possibility of ministering in this European country. We made some unbelievable contacts and in 2013 we raised \$15,000 and took 30 people on a short term mission trip to help build a community center for the Gypsy people of San Paul, near Cluj, Romania. We

have been blessed to partner with an established ministry called Casa Sperantei (The House of Hope – see casasperantei.com) to share the Gospel of Jesus Christ with the people of Romania in this needy part of the world. This summer we are once again sponsoring a short-term trip to San Paul.

Amazingly, there are three families from The Rock that are working hard to position themselves to permanently move to Romania this year, and our mission trip would help establish them in that community. These families include Jim McFall, Brian & Diana Mathison and Andrew and Cara Henry (with daughters Lillian and Avery). These dear saints have all experienced a deep burden for the people of Romania and are very excited to begin ministering there full time.



Outreach in a Romanian village.

Please pray that God gives grace, wisdom and the necessary resources that will allow all three families to make this life changing transition in 2014. Thank you!

INSIDE GCC

FAITHWALKERS 2014: HEROES

As people of God, we recognize only one true hero. His name is Jesus Christ. But Jesus Christ is not only a hero—He is also building heroes in the faith.

At Faithwalkers 2014 we will study people in the Old and New Testament who, just like all of us, were ordinary people who despite their sins, their weaknesses and their failures became heroes for the cause of Christ.

So, set apart **December 27-30, 2014**. Come and join other Faithwalkers, in our quest to live heroically for Jesus Christ.

MEET A GCC PASTOR THIS EDITION: BERK WILSON

Berk Wilson has been walking with the Lord since he committed his life to the Lord in college. His passion for Jesus is infectious and is what drew his wife of 34 years, Barbara, to fall in love with him on their first date. Berk and Barbara became active members of Clemson Christian Fellowship in Clemson, South Carolina, where they were discipled by Steve and Danelle Nelson. The biggest lesson he learned there was that evangelism and discipleship were not a gifting issue for him but a Lordship issue.

In 1985, Berk and Barbara were chosen as part of a church planting initiative to move to Chapel Hill, North Carolina, and begin a work on campus there. In 1988, Berk and his family moved to Cary, North Carolina, where he became a pastor and has pastored on the NC State campus since then. Grace Community Church on the NC State campus has ministered to thousands of students in the 20 years it has been there. Several campus works have been birthed by saints from Grace including the latest one, Niner Christian Fellowship, on the UNC Charlotte campus.



Berk and Barbara have raised six sons who have grown to become godly men making an impact in their own community. They have four wonderful daughters-in-law and one beautiful granddaughter.

In Acts 17:6-7, Paul and Silas's friendship was one that was so deeply committed to the Lord that it upset the whole world. Because NC State draws students from all over the world Berk sees his and other friendships at Grace having the same impact.

Do not be limited by circumstances or fear. Be courageous, think out of your box and take risks for the gospel! The world needs to know that Christ died for them!

FOLLOWING THE LORD JESUS

JOHN HOPLER - DIRECTOR, GREAT COMMISSION CHURCHES



"You followed my teaching, conduct, purpose, faith, patience, love, perseverance." 2 Timothy 3:10

The Apostle Paul gave quite a commendation to Timothy, his child in the faith.

Timothy had heard Paul's teaching and he had seen his life—and Timothy walked in Paul's steps. As followers of Jesus Christ, it is the heart of every parent and every pastor that the young people in the church are following in the steps of their teachers.

What Paul said to Timothy could be said of the young people in the two articles on the front page of this newsletter. All of these individuals were brought up in godly Christian homes and in churches that are devoted to Jesus Christ. Today these young people are following Jesus Christ on the same path traveled by their parents and church leaders.

If you are a young person in a GCC church, I encourage you to follow their example. If you are a parent or a church leader, realize that you can affect the world tomorrow by building in young people today. And let's all join together with our churches to live out the greatest cause given to mankind—making disciples for Jesus Christ of all the nations.



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CHRISTIANITY IN ACTION is a publication of Great Commission Churches, published four times each year.

www.gccweb.org | EDITORS: John Hopler, Christian Clonch | LAYOUT: Tyler Dormanen

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